

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/646,170

Examiner

John Juba, Jr.

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI, AKITO

Art Unit

2872

CM

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed January 4, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3 - 7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Brenda Holmes on March 7, 2005.

In the Claims:

Claims 4 – 7 stand as set forth in the amendment of January 4, 2005.

Claim 3 now reads as follows:

3. (currently amended) A mirror drive unit, comprising:
 - a power unit disposed in a mirror housing;
 - a mirror holder tiltably supported by the power unit through a joint; and
 - an angle detection unit disposed in the power unit, the angle detection unit detecting a tilt angle of the mirror holder,wherein the angle detection unit is provided with a temporary fixing mechanism for temporarily fixing the angle detection unit to the power unit,
 - wherein the power unit includes an engagement portion projected from the power unit,

~~wherein the temporary fixing mechanism includes a pair of arms, which is projected from a body of the angle detection unit and fitted to the engagement portion of the power unit in a manner of holding the engagement portion, and~~

wherein the engagement portion comprises a cylinder portion, which is projected from the power unit and includes an inner peripheral surface slidingly guiding tilting of the mirror holder, and

wherein the temporary fixing mechanism includes a pair of arms, which is projected from a body of the angle detection unit and fitted to the engagement portion of the power unit in a manner of holding the cylinder portion.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or fairly suggest a mirror drive unit comprising, *in combination*,

a cylinder portion projected from the power unit and including an inner peripheral surface slidingly guiding tilting of the mirror holder, particularly wherein the temporary fixing mechanism includes a pair of arms, which is projected from a body of the angle detection unit and fitted to the engagement portion of the power unit *in a manner of holding the cylinder portion*, as now recited in claim 3.

The examiner concurs with Applicant's remarks concerning the subject matter of claim 6.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Post-allowance papers should be mailed to **Box Issue Fee**. Post-allowance papers may also be faxed to correspondence branch in PUBs. The fax number is (703) 308-5083. The **PUBs customer service** number is (703) 305-8497.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Juba whose telephone number is (571) 272-2314. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Drew Dunn whose number is (571) 272-2312 and who can be reached on Mon.- Thu., 9 - 5.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800.


JOHN JUBA, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2872

March 8, 2005